

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

October 25 2005

The Veterans Administration is currently reevaluating utilization of the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration (WLA VA) property under the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Business Plan Studies. On September 22, 2005, the CARES Local Advisory Panel (LAP) held a public hearing at the Wadsworth Theater at the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration. The LAP adopted six guiding principles relative to all decisions regarding the future of the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration:

1. To honor the two pieces of federal legislation that have become known collectively as the Cranston Act which prevents the sale or commercial use of a major part of the property.
2. To honor the spirit of the 1888 deed from John P. Jones and Arcadia B. de Baker granting the land as an Old Soldiers Home, by adopting the principle that in perpetuity the land must be maintained for the direct benefit of veterans.
3. To preclude commercial uses on the property as stated in the letter dated February 25, 2002 from then Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi to Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.
4. To maintain current land use agreements on the property as outlined in the

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CARES summary report and amended by the LAP.

5. To declare that there is no excess land at the WLA VA property.
6. To abide by the National Historic Preservation Act as it applies to the WLA VA.

The WLA VA is the largest Veterans Administration site in the nation, encompassing 387 acres. As such, it carries significant regional, state and national interest for our nation's veterans. This property attracts and serves veterans not only from the Los Angeles area, but also from all parts of the state and the country.

According to the California Department of Veterans Affairs, more veterans live within fifty miles of the WLA VA Center than in 42 other states combined. It is a known fact that our veterans are in need of quality medical care, support services, mental health programs and affordable housing. We believe it is critical that the WLA VA remain as a primary location that provides comprehensive services to our veterans.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that a 5-signature letter be sent to Secretary of Veterans Affairs James Nicholson urging him to honor our veterans by preserving the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration land for the purpose of directly serving our veterans as stipulated in the 1888 deed, by using the six principles as a foundation in making ongoing decisions about the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration, and by rejecting any concept or proposal that conflicts with the guiding principles.

VR: s\motions\WLA letter to Principi